



December 20, 2022

MR. NOAH SCHEER



FOIPA Request No.: 1525909-000
Subject: COWL, MARGARET

Dear Mr. Scheer:

The FBI has completed its review of records subject to the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) that are responsive to your request. The enclosed documents were reviewed under the FOIPA, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

Section 552

☐ (b)(1)

☐ (b)(2)

☒ (b)(3)

50 U.S.C. § 3024(i)(1)

☐ (b)(4)

☐ (b)(5)

☒ (b)(6)

☐ (b)(7)(A)

☐ (b)(7)(B)

☒ (b)(7)(C)

☒ (b)(7)(D)

☒ (b)(7)(E)

☐ (b)(7)(F)

☐ (b)(8)

☐ (b)(9)

Section 552a

☐ (d)(5)

☐ (j)(2)

☐ (k)(1)

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10 pages were reviewed and 10 pages are being released.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

- ☐ Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency [OGA].
- ☐ This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.
- ☐ We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by emailing the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison at foipaquestions@fbi.gov. The subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.



See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosure(s)

Based on the information you provided, we conducted a main and reference entity record search of the Central Records System (CRS) per our standard search policy. For more information about records searches and the standard search policy, see the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum General Information Section.

This is the final release of information responsive to your FOIPA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Enclosed are cross-references that are identifiable with the subject of your request. Cross-references are defined as mentions of the subject of your request in files to other individuals, organizations, events, or activities. In processing the cross-references, the pages considered for possible release included only those pages that mention the subject of your request and any additional pages showing the context in which the subject of your request was mentioned.

Records that may have been responsive to your request were destroyed. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Title 44, United States Code, Section 3301 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1228; Title 44, United States Code, Section 3310 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1229.10.

A record that may be responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request has been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). If you wish to review these records, submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to NARA, Special Access and FOIA, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference the file numbers 100-HQ-11239, 100-NY-7971, 100-HQ-378547, 40-HQ-3923 serial 139 pages 9, 22, 23, 43, 100-HQ-124002 serial 510 pages 280-284, 100-NY-103949 serial 143, 100-NY-105630 serial 125 page 3.

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Confidential Informant Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of confidential informant records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), and (b)(7)(F)] and Privacy Act exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. § 552a (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records would reveal confidential informant identities and information, expose law enforcement techniques, and endanger the life or physical safety of individuals. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches and Standard Search Policy.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems, such as the Central Records System (CRS), or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. The CRS is an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. The standard search policy is a search for main entity records in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include a search for reference entity records, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files.
 - a. *Main Entity Records* – created for individuals or non-individuals who are the subjects or the focus of an investigation
 - b. *Reference Entity Records*- created for individuals or non-individuals who are associated with a case but are not known subjects or the focus of an investigation
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Foreseeable Harm Standard.** As amended in 2016, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a federal agency may withhold responsive records only if: (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions that FOIA enumerates, or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law (5 United States Code, Section 552(a)(8)(A)(i)). The FBI considers this foreseeable harm standard in the processing of its requests.
- (iv) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

WFO []

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WFO has not received official word of []
[] as soon as
received.

The NYO is requested through established sources
to attempt to ascertain the nature of []
[] to attempt to ascertain his
reason for contacting MARGARET COWL at International Pub-
lications.

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In the event subject []
[] WFO will provide fair coverage to []
[] is requested to afford full coverage to the subject
while in that locality.

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AIRTEL

8/28/53

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

FROM: SAC, WFO [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
(OO: WFO)b3
b7ERe: Newyairtel, cc to New York, 8/15/53 reflecting
that [REDACTED]

On 8/27/53 [REDACTED] reported that [REDACTED]

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b7EThis informant also reported on 8/27/53 that
[REDACTED]
would arrange the appointment by phone in New York.b3
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The informant advised that [REDACTED]

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b7E[REDACTED] It should be noted this telephone number is listed
to the International Publications, Inc., 4 West 16th
Street, NYC, and WFO believes that KOHLER (ph) is identical
with Mrs. MARGARET COWL of this corporation.

The informant reported that [REDACTED]

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b7E[REDACTED] According to the informant, one
[REDACTED] WFO believes

that [REDACTED]

3 - Bureau
2 - New York [REDACTED] (RM)
1 - WFOWJL:mso
(6)AIRTELAIRTEL
ANY

B. [REDACTED]

S. [REDACTED]

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FWW

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE CHICAGO	OFFICE OF ORIGIN CHICAGO	DATE 10/13/60	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/1 - 29/60
TITLE OF CASE CROSS WORLD BOOKS AND PERIODICALS, aka, MIDWEST BOOK HOUSE		REPORT MADE BY 	TYPED BY MCU
		CHARACTER OF CASE 	

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REFERENCES: Report of SA dated 7/22/60, at Chicago, Illinois.
Washington Field letter to the Bureau dated 9/15/60.
New York letter to the Bureau dated 9/20/60.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE

Information furnished by has been placed on an appropriate FD-302 form but summarized in this report. Information received by SA from United States Customs House, Room 615, 610 South Canal Street, Chicago, Illinois, has been placed on an appropriate FD-302 form but also summarized in this report.

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The building directory at 333 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois was checked by SA on September 28, 1960.

APPROVED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: 5 - Bureau (100-432354) (RM) ① - New York (Info) (RM) 1 - WFO (Info) (RM) 5 - Chicago 		SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED OCT 17 1960 FBI - NEW YORK

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- A -
COVER PAGE

[redacted]

Thereafter, one of the people taking part in the discussion remarked that [redacted]

[redacted] This person then related how two men from the Embassy had come to Chicago from Washington to [redacted]

[redacted] In addition, one of the Soviets viewing an exhibit at the book store which had been beautifully set up, had made fun of the exhibit.

(CG T-5, 7/19/60)

On September 15, 1960, JOSEPH A. DUFFY, Executive Director, ABA, 175 5th Avenue, New York City; advised SA PHILIP B. CARR that his organization planned and held a book-sellers convention in Chicago in June, 1960. He stated that the United States State Department, Washington, D.C., urged them to admit Soviet bloc exhibits. The Russian Government was solicited and declined to send a Soviet State exhibit but appointed instead the CWBP in Chicago to handle the Soviet exhibit and appointed Four Continent Book Store, New York City, to handle their exhibit at a similar convention at Columbia University, New York City, held on June 19, - July 1, 1960.

DUFFY stated that a Soviet official having the rank of "Deputy Minister of Culture" was present at both conventions.

DUFFY stated he met [redacted] at the Chicago Convention and remembered that she related to him that she had been associated with CWBP for [redacted] years. [redacted] stated that she answered a newspaper ad which resulted in her receiving the [redacted] of CWBP. DUFFY stated he was not impressed with [redacted] ability in the publishing or "book selling" business.

In August, 1960, it was learned that [redacted] Washington, D.C., was to come to Chicago for the purpose of discussing with [redacted] matters relating to the bill which the Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship (CCASF) owes MARGARET COWL of

[redacted]

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Imported Publications and Products, New York City, and which
[redacted] assumed responsibility for when she [redacted].
[redacted]

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(CG T-3, 8/2/60)

MARGARET COWL, also known as
MARGARET KRUMBEIN

See documentation of the "Imported
Publications and Products, Incorporated" in the
Appendix Section of this report.

In early August, 1960, it was learned that
[redacted] Washington, D.C.,
was in Chicago, Illinois, and had contacted LE ROY WOLINS
and discussed with WOLINS the possibility of WOLINS taking
over the operation of the CWBP, 333 South Wacker Drive,
Chicago, Illinois.

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According to WOLINS [redacted] had stated that
since [redacted]

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WOLINS said that the Russians, because of this, had been
extremely dissatisfied with [redacted] and it was their desire
[redacted]

According to WOLINS, [redacted]
had told him that [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] According to WOLINS,
[redacted] had told him that he and RICHARD HELLIE, who is a
current part-time employee of CWBP, could [redacted]

WOLINS further stated that it was his belief
that [redacted]

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(CG T-3, 8/7/60)

SAC, CHICAGO [REDACTED]

10/4/60

SA [REDACTED]

CROSS WORLD BOOKS & PERIODICALS
[REDACTED]

On September 20, 1960, [REDACTED] who has furnished reliable information in the past, personally, provided SA [REDACTED] with oral information pertaining to [REDACTED]

The above information was reduced to writing by SA [REDACTED] on September 20, 1960, and authenticated by the informant on September 22, 1960.

The original information is being maintained in Chicago file [REDACTED] and is as follows:

4 - New York (RM)

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(1 - 100-
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MARGARET COWL
Imported Publications & Products, Inc.
[REDACTED] (Phonetic), New Yorker

(1) - 100-

[REDACTED] (Phonetic), New Yorker
[REDACTED]

5 - Chicago

(1 - [REDACTED]
(1 - 100-33930
(1 - 100-17099
(1 - 100-

RICHARD HELLIE

DET:kzh
(9)

OPEN FOR [REDACTED]
ORIGIN Cgo
SUPV JWB
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SECT 331

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[redacted]

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to the book deal the CCASF had with [redacted] an agreement had been reached and signed by [redacted] This agreement had not as yet been signed by MARGARET COWL. It was learned that [redacted]

[redacted] It was learned that [redacted]

though COWL owes them thousands of dollars. Despite this, [redacted]

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The general consensus of the people attending this [redacted] meeting was that [redacted]

[redacted] COWL has refused [redacted] had promised the [redacted] as soon as the American Book Sellers Convention being held in Chicago in June, 1960, was over.

(CG T-3, 6/14/60)

[redacted]
On November 5, 1958, CG T-7 stated that [redacted]
[redacted] in the early 1940s, was a [redacted]

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[redacted] in November, 1958,
[redacted]

On March 9, 1960, CG T-3 advised that on March 8, 1960, during an argument between [redacted] and LE ROY WOLINS, WOLINS stated that he had inside information that [redacted]

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PAUL ROMAINE

On May 8, 1956, CG T-8 advised that PAUL ROMAINE was a member of the [redacted] in Milwaukee

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[redacted]

in 1932. ROMANE as of May 8, 1956, was operating the Paul Romaine Book Store in Chicago which handles Communist publications. On July 30, 1958, CG T-9 advised of learning that PAUL ROMANE, who is not a member of the CP, as of July 20, 1958, has been selling anti-religious books.

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Around mid-June, 1960, the [redacted] held an important meeting at Chicago, Illinois. Discussed at this meeting was the [redacted] In this connection it was pointed out to the persons present that [redacted] MARGARET COWL, had sent a letter to the [redacted] in which he had stated that MARGARET COWL was prepared to [redacted] which the Council owed MARGARET COWL and Imported Publications and Products if the Council and [redacted] PAUL ROMANE was appointed to [redacted]

(CG T-3, 6/15/60)

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Around mid-July, 1960, at an important meeting of the [redacted] held in Chicago, Illinois, PAUL ROMANE advised that nothing new had developed in regard to [redacted] ROMANE stated that [redacted]

[redacted] It is believed that these Russians will straighten the matter out. ROMANE also stated that [redacted] sometime ago had promised to [redacted] but has not done so.

(CG T-3, 7/21/60)

B. Modern Book Store (MBS)

In June, 1960, a representative of the MBS made out a check in the sum of \$100 payable to the CWBP. The nature of this payment to the CWBP was not disclosed.

(CG T-10, 7/14/60)

"IMPORTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTS, INCORPORATED"

[redacted]
[redacted] and at the time of his expulsion in [redacted]
[redacted] the [redacted]
[redacted] advised in April, 1951, that Imported Publications and Products was formed by the Communist Party, USA, for the purpose of procuring foreign publications for sale in the United States. According to [redacted] MARGARET KRUMBEIN, the owner of the organization, had been a member of the Communist Party for many years and had actively worked for the Communist Party.

Imported Publications and Products, presently located at 4 West 16th Street, New York City, registered with the Foreign Agents Registration Section of the United States Department of Justice on June 14, 1951, and received Registration Number 676.

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[redacted]

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[redacted] said he will be gone [redacted] Later it was learned from [redacted] that LE ROY was still in Chicago, but would leave "this week."

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When asked why LE ROY WOLINS would be going to Russia [redacted] was heard to respond, [redacted]

(CG T-5, 8/3/60)

In early August, 1960, [redacted] stated that on August 1, 1960, she had fired LE ROY WOLINS from his job as office manager of the CWBP Store. [redacted] further stated that she had fired WOLINS because [redacted]

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[redacted] According to [redacted] WOLINS had insisted he [redacted] and was astounded when [redacted] refused his request.

It was also learned from [redacted] that after she had fired WOLINS he had the "brass" to call her and ask to [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that she declined this invitation and that later WOLINS again called and asked her for permission to [redacted]

According to [redacted] she denied him the right to [redacted] however, she stated she would promise him [redacted]

(CG T-3, 8/3/60)

On August 6, 1960, it was known that RICHARD HELLIE was a current part-time employee of the CWBP.

(CG T-3, 8/7/60)

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Connection of the CWBP With the Chicago Committee of American-Soviet Friendship (CCASF)

At an important meeting of the CCASF held in late May, 1960, at Chicago, Illinois, it was learned that in regard